(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the capacity and expected date of commencement of commercial production of each project; and

(c) to what extent the agreements with US are going to meet the shortage of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No Government to Government agreements have been signed with the United States of America for setting up of power projects.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Counter-Guarantees for power projects

314. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give counter guarantee in two more US financed power projects to be set up in the country;

(b) the number of projects in which Government have agreed to give counter guarantees;

(c) whether Government have framed any guidelines in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has decided to extend Government of India counter guarantee to 8 initial projects cleared from foreign investment angle. Out of these 6 projects involve investment by US based companies (including NRIs and joint venture proposals), out of which counter guarantee has been signed for 2 projects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Detailed terms and conditions have been formulated for extending Government of India counter guarantee such as signing of State guarantee, PPA by SEB, letter of credit/ escrow account between SEB and generating company, signing of Operational and Financial Action Plan (OFAP) by SEB, performance parameters to ensure healthy financial performance by SEB etc.

International seminar on energy problems

315. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any International Seminar was held on Energy problems organised by the Institute of Engineers (India) recently; and

(b) if so, the measures suggested in the Seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conference idenified a number of issues and concerns of the developing countries, with a view to draw up an Action Plan for presentation to the 16th Congress of the World Energy Council at Tokyo in October, 1995.

Electricity generation in Government run power plants

316. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government-run power plants are generating 65 per cent of electricity from coal based thermal power plants which are causin danger for our environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to generate electricity in plants based on other resources; and

(c) the success achieved by Government in this direction so far?